

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00564 111811Z

70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00

SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 /161 W

----- 088942

R 111350Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2725

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0564

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, PINT, MZ

SUBJECT: GOLD IS STILL GOING TO GO

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 558

1. IN COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED JULY 11, MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT QUARTERLY SHIPMENT OF GOLD TO BANK OF PORTUGAL (REFTEL) HAD BEEN HELD UP ONLY BECAUSE PRESS LEAKS HAD COMPROMISED ITS SECURITY, MAKING POSSIBLE AIR HIJACKING ETC. ACCORDING TO COMMUNIQUE, GOLD HAD BEEN ACQUIRED BY BANK OF PORTUGAL APRIL 15, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PRACTICE FOR "OBTAINING EXCHANGE SUSCEPTIBLE OF IMMEDIATE APPLICATION AS MEANS OF FOREIGN PAYMENT," AND THEREFORE NO LONGER BELONGED TO MOZAMBIQUE STATE. GOLD WILL THEREFORE BE SHIPPED AT A LATER DATE WITH SUITABLE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS.

2. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT'S POSITION, WHILE LEGALLY PROBABLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CORRECT, SEEMS POLITICALLY VERY INEPT. ONE ISSUE ON WHICH

ALL MOZAMBICANS OF ALL RACES AND ALL POLITICAL VIEWS ARE
AGREED IS THAT LISBON GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN AND STILL IS
STEALING MOZAMBIQUE BLIND, AND TRANSFERS OF GOLD PAYMENTS
FROM SOUTH AFRICA RESULTING FROM LABOR OF MOZAMBIQUE MINERS
HAS BECOME POPULAR SYMBOL OF THIS. STOPPING AND THEN REIN-
STATING GOLD SHIPMENT (REGARDLESS OF LEGALITIES INVOLVED)
WILL BE SEEN AS PROOF THAT MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT IS AS
MUCH UNDER LISBON'S THUMB AS EVER, AND GOVERNOR GENERAL HAS
LOST A BADLY NEEDED OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE A COMMITMENT
TO MOZAMBICAN INTERESTS.
REED

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